

WHAT'S NEW

Groundbreaking ceremony, gift announcement launch new era

Schnitzer's \$1 million gift tops off money needed for construction of the new additions

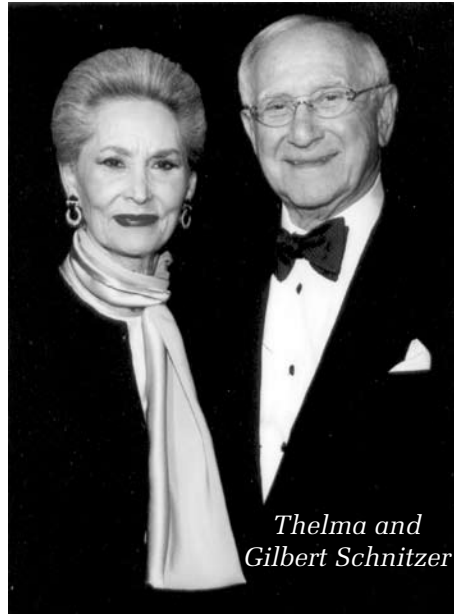
Portland's Thelma and Gilbert Schnitzer have answered a matching gift challenge issued by Business Wire founder Lorry Lokey with a \$1 million contribution for a major expansion and renovation of the University of Oregon's MarAbel B. Frohnmayer Music Building.

The Schnitzers' gift puts fundraising efforts for the \$17.8 million construction phase of the project over the top, UO President Dave Frohnmayer announced during the Nov. 3 groundbreaking ceremonies featuring performances by students in the UO School of Music and Dance.

Frohnmayer announced that the building's new performance wing will be named for Thelma Schnitzer, a 1940 UO music graduate. He also said the new academic wing will be named for Leona DeArmond, a 1951 UO music graduate. Leona and her husband, Bob, have been key contributors toward the project.

"This project is a gift to all Oregonians and we are delighted that the new wings of this building will carry the names of such outstanding alumni," Frohnmayer said. "The University of Oregon is home to one of the top three music schools on the West Coast. Two years from now, our music building will at long last reflect our music faculty's national and international reputation for excellence."

The first significant campus construction for music in nearly three decades, the project will increase the size of the music building by 50 percent, renovate existing facilities, and join old and new portions of the building to achieve an integrated whole.



Thelma and Gilbert Schnitzer

Schnitzer gift stands for two great loves

The Schnitzers, who celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary in July, were unable to attend the groundbreaking. In a telephone interview, they shared their reasons for increasing their original pledge of \$250,000 for the project to a total of \$1.25 million.

"Music is my passion," said Thelma, a 1940 UO music graduate known for her philanthropic support of the arts. "We are doing this because of our love for music. We want that love to grow in the next generations. It enriches us to do this for people."

Gilbert, a 1940 UO business graduate who founded Schnitzer Investment Corporation, says the gift also memorializes his "lifelong love affair" with Thelma. "I am a lucky man," he said happily. "I have a lovely wife."

If not for Gilbert, Thelma said,

she would have gone to The Juilliard School. Both were just fifteen when Gilbert spotted Thelma from the window of his father's downtown Portland office as she walked to a piano lesson. Gilbert said he lost little time in finding an opportunity to invite her to dancing lessons. With the exception of their first two years in college (Gilbert at UO, Thelma at the University of Washington), they've been inseparable ever since.

Now 87, the pair married just before the start of their junior year. Thelma transferred to the UO, where she studied with George Hopkins, a legendary piano professor. "He was marvelous, just wonderful," she said of Hopkins, with whom she continued to study after graduation.

Project timeline and funding

Work is expected to start in early 2007 on two significant additions, the Thelma Schnitzer Performance Wing and the Leona DeArmond Academic Wing.

A total of \$10.2 million in private contributions has leveraged the allocation of \$7.6 million in bonds by the Oregon Legislature. Lead donors include the DeArmonds, the Schnitzers, Lorry Lokey, who has contributed a total of \$5 million, and Kathleen Daugherty Richards Grubbe of Eugene.

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—Dave Frohnmayer

Project scope

Plans designed by BOORA Architects of Portland call for 29,000 square feet of new construction plus renovation of 15,000 square feet. When complete, the building will be enlarged to a total of 90,000 square feet, including Beall Hall.

The performance wing, to be

located on the northeast corner of the existing building, will contain a symphony-sized rehearsal hall. The existing choral rehearsal room will be reborn as Thelma Schnitzer Hall, a versatile and intimate performance and teaching venue with permanent risers, state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment, and a grand piano. Other improvements include new, dedicated rehearsal spaces for the jazz program, the addition of a dedicated percussion studio and percussion classrooms, a new recording studio, and new practice rooms for students.

The academic wing, to be built next to the Pioneer Cemetery, will enclose the historic courtyard that will be made into a beautiful, central gathering space, and named in honor of Leona DeArmond's voice professor, the late Penny Vanderwicken Duprey. The academic wing will provide a new teaching studio for the Community Music Institute; a new music education teaching lab that also will serve as a 65-seat classroom; approximately 28 new acoustically isolated faculty teaching studios; new 35-seat classrooms and additional practice rooms for students—which will nearly double the number of practice rooms for students.

Renovation highlights include makeovers for four seminar rooms; expanded, secure areas for the electronic music program; and an increase in the number of offices for administration.

The \$17.8 million project is the first phase of a long-range comprehensive plan for improving UO music and dance facilities. The plan addresses anticipated future needs for Phase Two, which could include an additional concert hall, more faculty teaching studios and additional renovation work.

New fundraising goals

The additions to the building will likely increase annual operating costs by more than \$50,000, according to Dean Brad Foley.

"Responsible stewardship of these new facilities will require an endowment to cover increased operating costs," Foley said. "Efforts also are under way to raise funds for classroom media, risers, student seating, and faculty studio furnishings. We also need at least 30 new pianos to equip the new faculty teaching studios, classrooms, and rehearsal rooms."

With money already in hand to cover construction costs, Foley said the school's new fundraising list includes a \$1.5 million endowment for building operations, \$1 million for pianos and \$600,000 for equipment, furnishings and instruments for the building. ♦

To view the building plans in more detail, visit the school's web-site at <http://music.uoregon.edu>



Bob and Leona DeArmond applaud the official naming of the new wings to the music building.

PUTTIN' UP THE BRICKS

Efforts are underway to name the bricks in the new Penny Vanderwicken Duprey Courtyard near the new academic music wing. Donors may leave a legacy for themselves or loved ones, with bricks available for \$250 or \$1000. Proceeds will help equip the new building.

For more details, contact Dana Clark at (541) 346-5695 or daclark@uoregon.edu

CLARK HIRED AS MAJOR GIFT OFFICER

Dana Clark, program assistant for the School of Music and Dance Development Office for the past two years, was hired February 1, 2007, as assistant development officer—a new position for the school. Clark will join Director of Development DeNel Stoltz in major gift fundraising. Clark will also continue to manage all of the development events for the School of Music and Dance, oversee scholarship stewardship, the annual giving program, and the named brick initiative.

Clark has an extensive back-



Dana Clark

ground in fundraising and events. She was a regional director for the American Heart Association in Eugene for three years. She ran her own event

management and fundraising company that coordinated the "Celebrity Waiter a la Carte" annual fundraiser for Looking Glass Youth and Family Services, the Light of Liberty Fourth of July Celebration for Springfield Utility Board, and the Urology Foundation Symposium. Clark can be reached at (541) 346-5695 or daclark@uoregon.edu. Kat L'Estrange has been hired as program assistant to fill Clark's previous position. ♦